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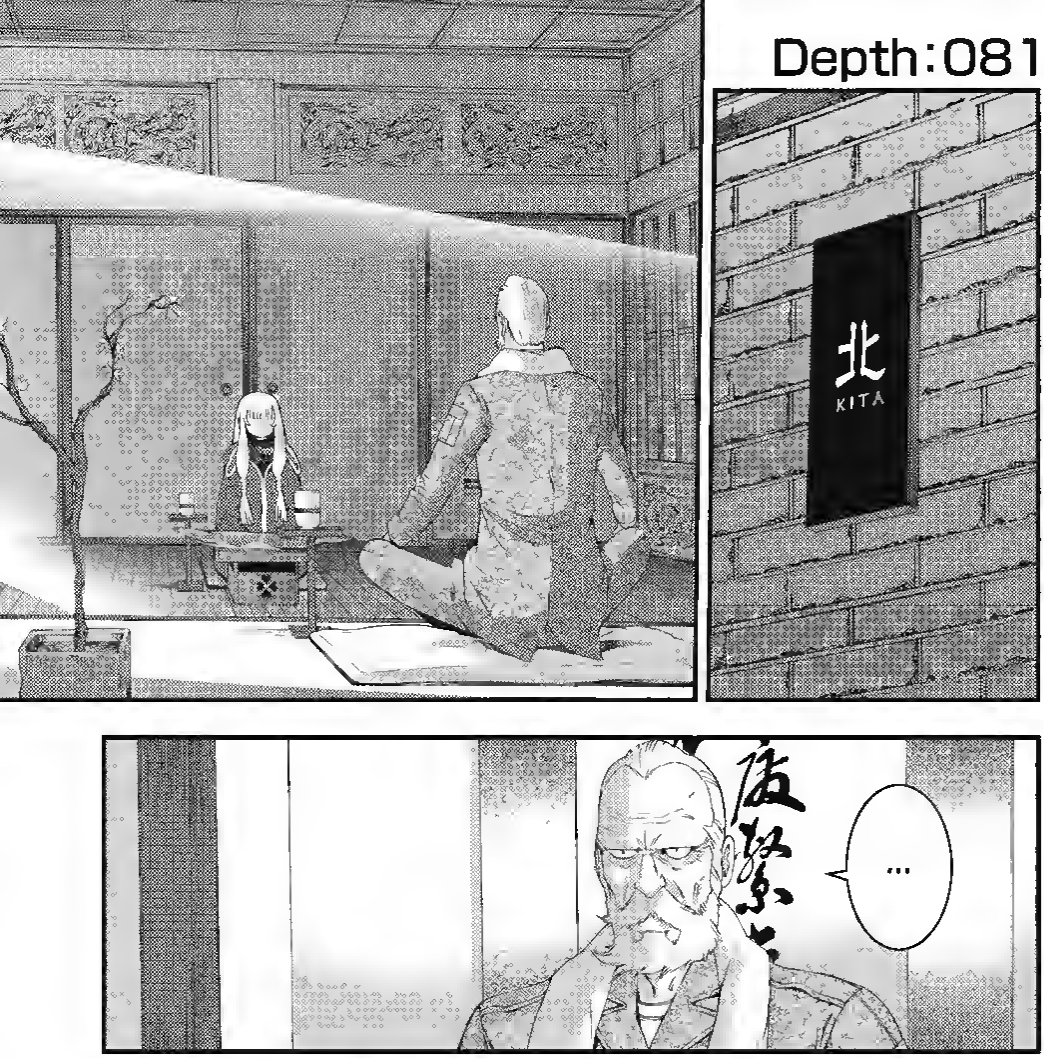
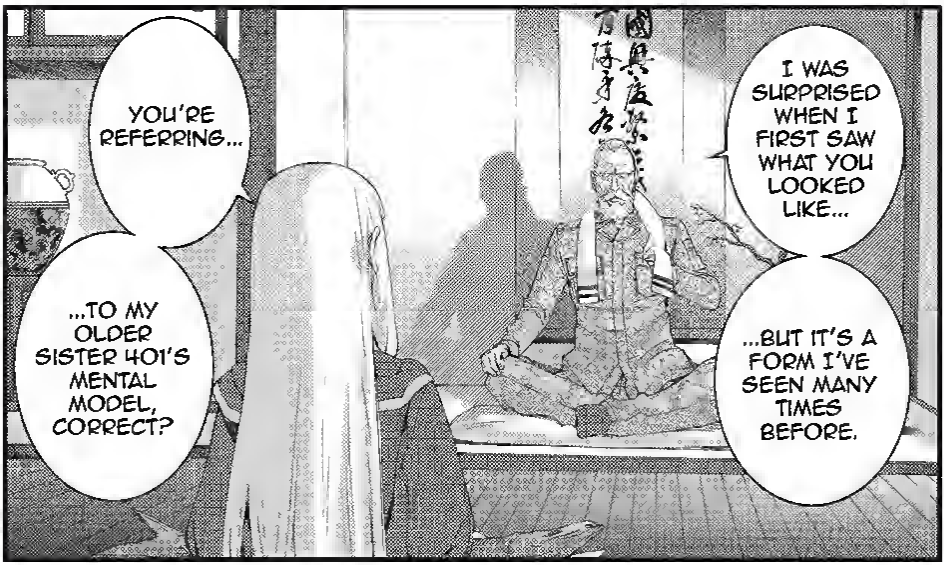



I WAS SURPRISED WHEN I FIRST SAW WHAT YOU LOOKED LIKE...
...BUT IT'S A FORM I'VE SEEN MANY TIMES BEFORE.
YOU'RE REFERRING...
...TO MY OLDER SISTER 401'S MENTAL MODEL, CORRECT?

YES. YOU LOOK SO SIMILAR.
IN FACT, IDENTICAL. THAT'S HOW I IMMEDIATELY UNDER-STOOD THE SITUATION.
I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT.

I'LL INTRODUCE MYSELF PROPERLY, THEN.
I AM THE MENTAL MODEL OF THE CRUISING SUBMARINE I-402, OF WHAT YOU CALLED THE "FOG."
I MUST START BY GIVING YOU AN APOLOGY.

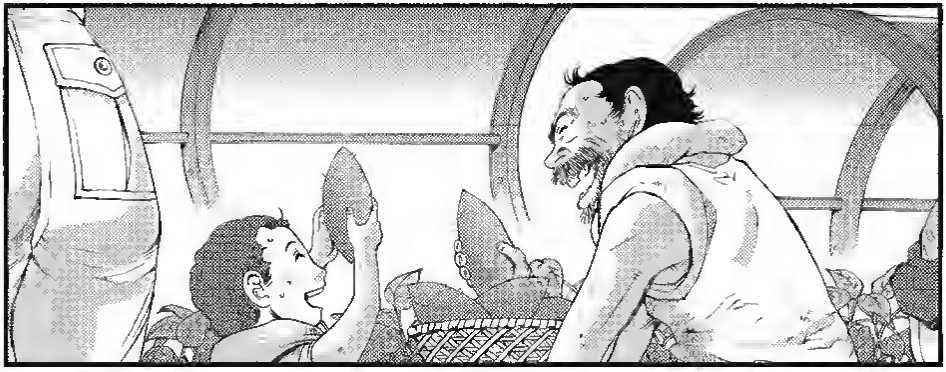
AFTER A REVIEW OF A VARIETY OF CULTURAL DOCUMENTS...
...I DECIDED THAT I OUGHT TO APPROACH YOU IN A VERY FORMAL MANNER.
GO AHEAD.
NONETHELESS, I LACK THE REQUIRED EXPERIENCE POINTS TO PERFECTLY MASTER THE NECESSARY FORMALITIES AT THIS JUNCTURE.
I BEG YOUR PARDON IN THIS MATTER.

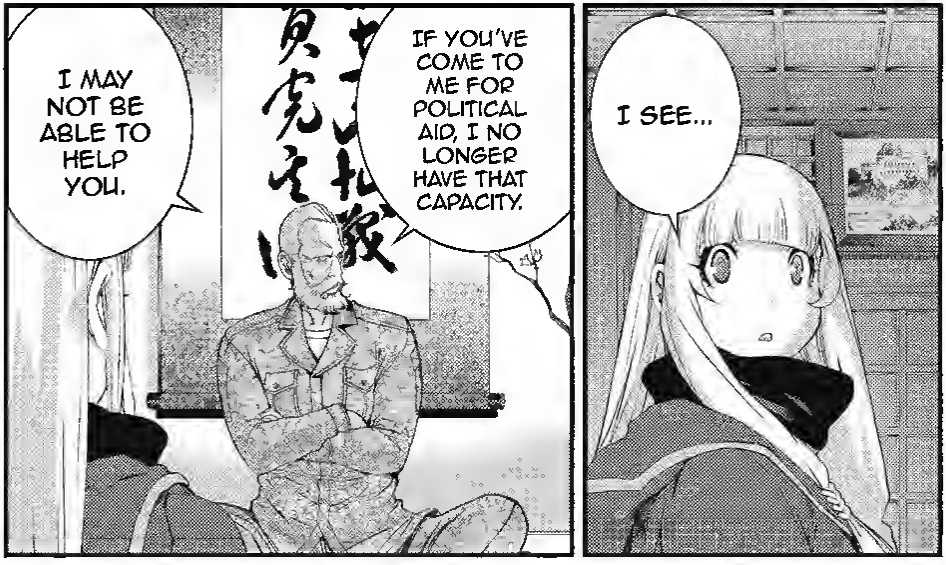
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
!
FORGIVE ME.
I WAS SIMPLY TAKEN ABACK BY YOUR STATEMENT. IT WASN'T WHAT I EXPECTED AT ALL.
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THE FORMALITIES.
ALL RIGHT.
TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE HERE TO SAY.
I AM GRATEFUL.
I HAVE COME TO MAKE A REQUEST.

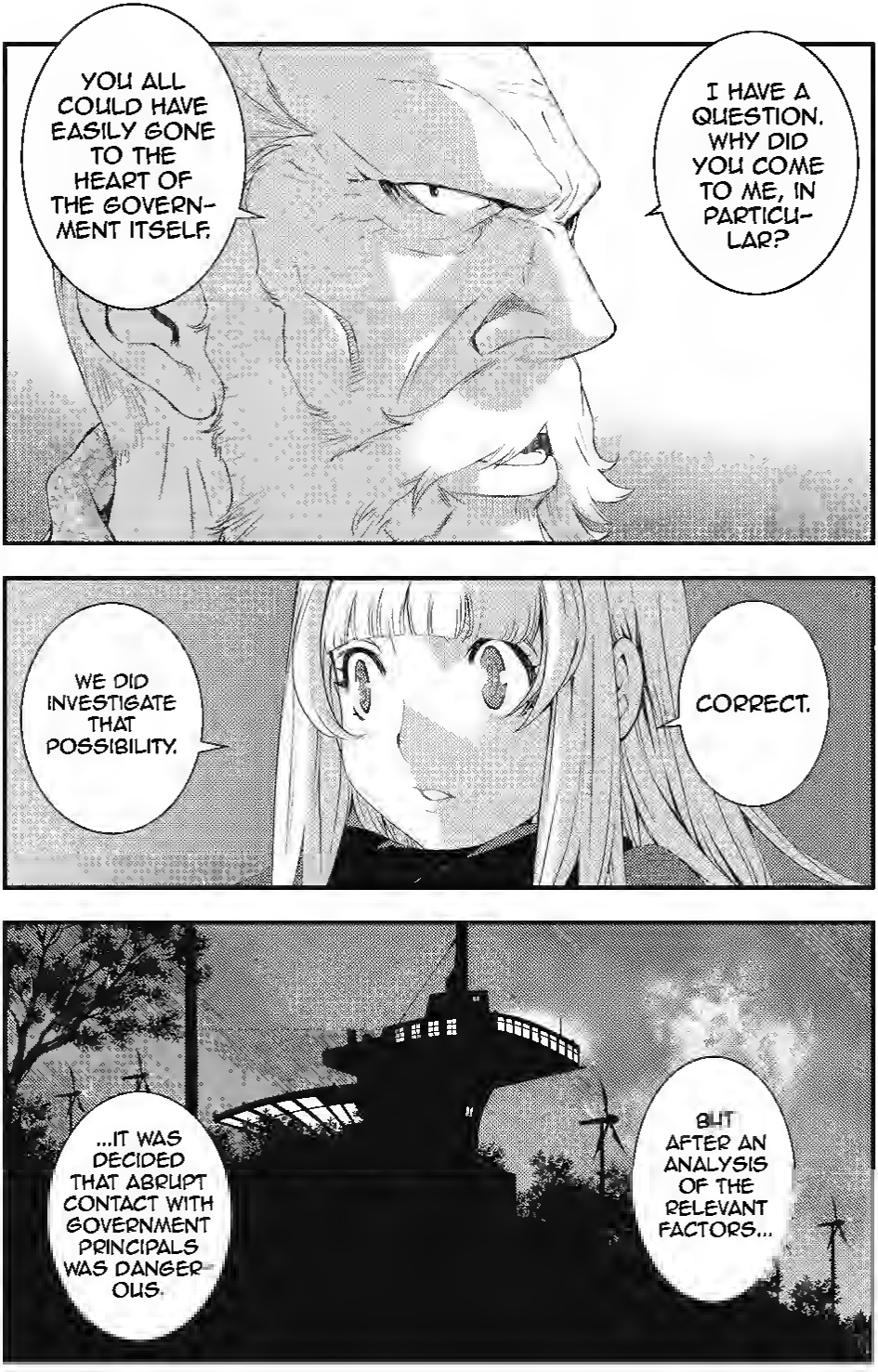
A RE-QUEST?
INDEED.
IT INVOLVES THE PAST AND FUTURE...
...OF BOTH OUR-SELVES...
...AND HUMANITY.
THE PAST...
...AND FUTURE, HUH?

THERE ARE MULTIPLE MENTAL MODELS...
...AT THE MARINE TECHNICAL ACADEMY RIGHT NOW.
FROM YOUR EXPRES-SION...
...I TAKE IT YOU'RE UNAWARE OF THESE LATEST DEVELOP-MENTS?
I'M A MEMBER OF THE DIET STILL, BUT I'VE STEPPED BACK.
I'M LETTING THE NEXT GENERATION MAKE ALL THE CHOICES.

...I SPEND MY DAYS EARNING MY KEEP WITH THOSE RESPECT ME.
FOR NOW...

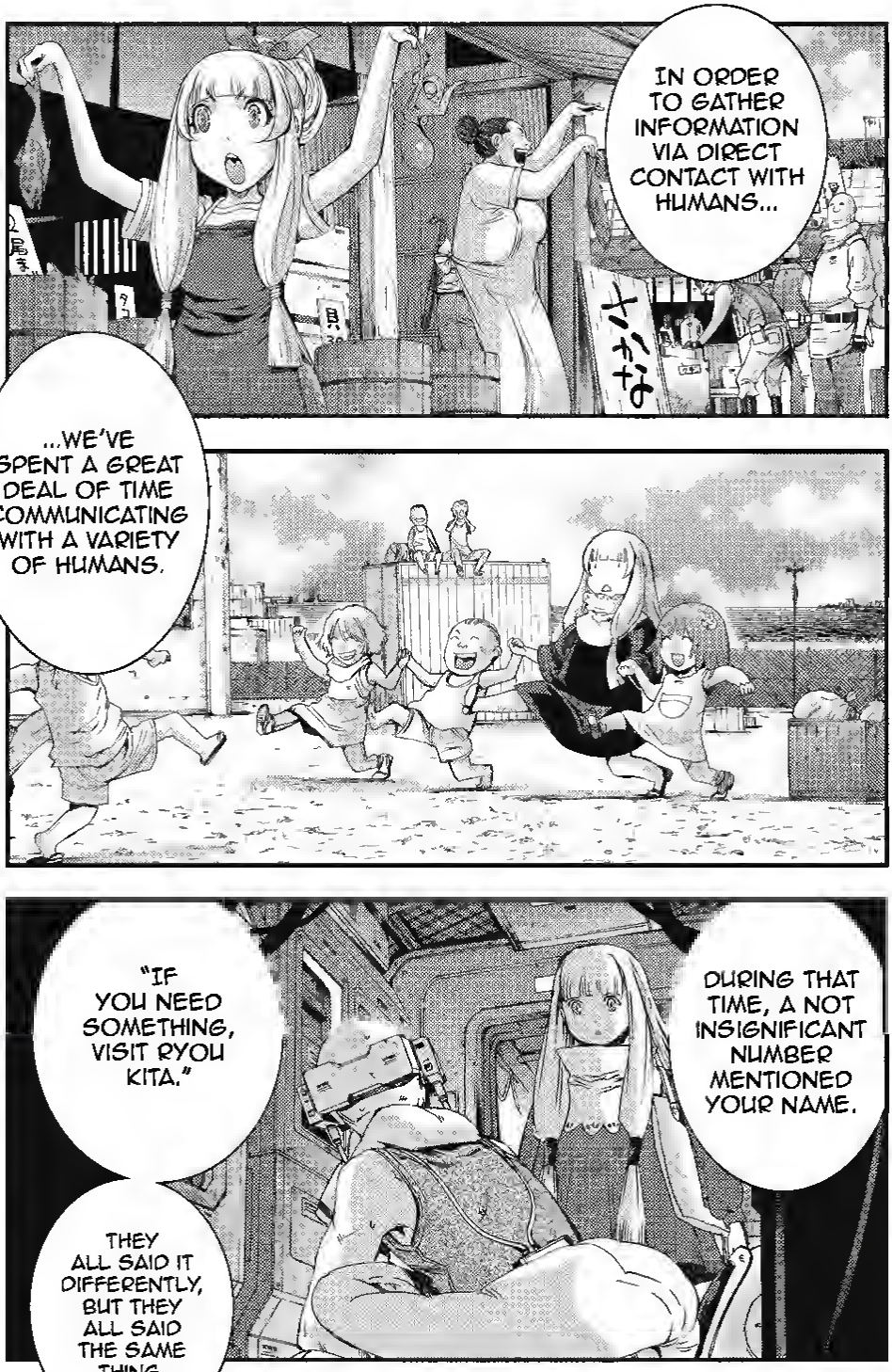



I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO HELP YOU.
IF YOU'VE COME TO ME FOR POLITICAL AID, I NO LONGER HAVE THAT CAPACITY.
I SEE...

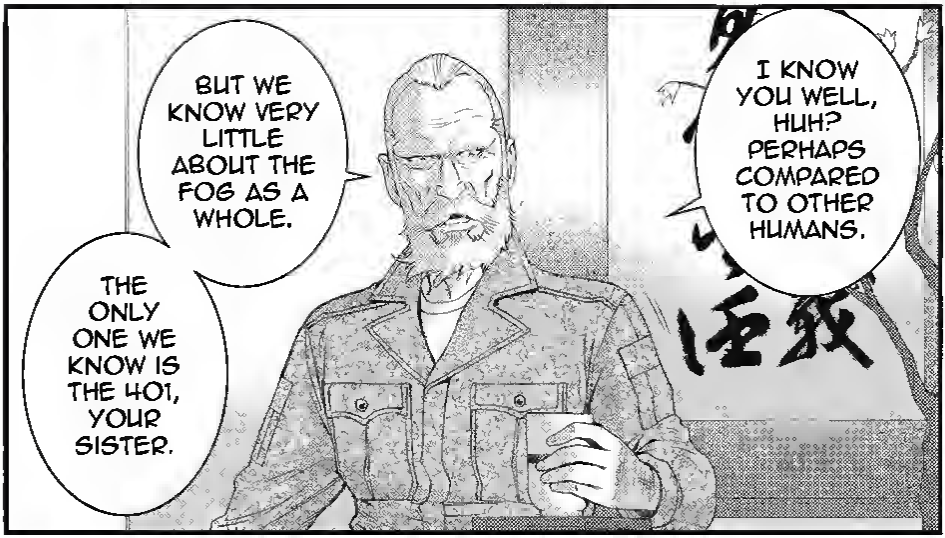

YOU ALL COULD HAVE EASILY GONE TO THE HEART OF THE GOVERN-MENT ITSELF.
I HAVE A QUESTION. WHY DID YOU COME TO ME, IN PARTICU-LAR?
WE DID INVESTIGATE THAT POSSIBILITY.
CORRECT.
...IT WAS DECIDED THAT ABRUPT CONTACT WITH GOVERNMENT PRINCIPALS WAS DANGER-OUS.
BUT AFTER AN ANALYSIS OF THE RELEVANT FACTORS...

PUT BLUNTLY...
AND WHY IS THAT?
WE HAVE A CRITICAL LACK OF INFORMATION.
...WE STILL HAVE LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF HUMAN "POLITICS."
THAT'S THE REASON.
IN OTHER WORDS, WE CAN'T EVEN DECIDE IF IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS OR NOT.
ふふふ

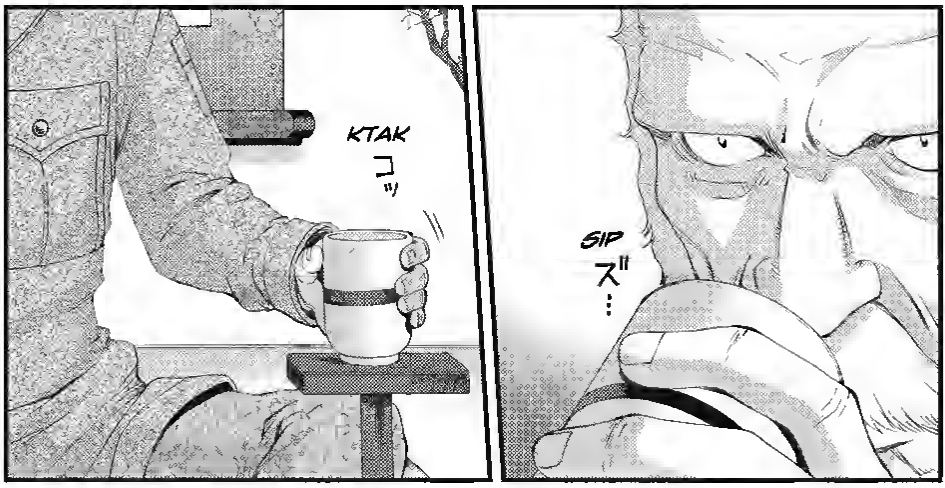
SO THAT'S WHY, THEN?
BUT...
THAT'S ONLY HALF THE ANSWER TO MY QUESTION.
WE HAVE COME TO YOU...
...BECAUSE WE HAVE HEARD YOUR NAME OFTEN.
MY NAME?
INDEED.


IN ORDER TO GATHER INFORMATION VIA DIRECT CONTACT WITH HUMANS...
...WE'VE SPENT A GREAT DEAL OF TIME COMMUNICATING WITH A VARIETY OF HUMANS.
DURING THAT TIME, A NOT INSIGNIFICANT NUMBER MENTIONED YOUR NAME.
"IF YOU NEED SOMETHING, VISIT RYOU KITA."
THEY ALL SAID IT DIFFERENTLY, BUT THEY ALL SAID THE SAME THING.

SHEESH...
...
YOU'RE RESPECTED BY THE POPULACE. YOU ONCE HELD AN IMPORTANT POLITICAL POST.
YOU MEET THE CRITERIA FOR PEOPLE WE WISH TO CONTACT ON A NUMBER OF LEVELS.
YOU KNOW US WELL.
AND...


I KNOW YOU WELL, HUH? PERHAPS COMPARED TO OTHER HUMANS.
BUT WE KNOW VERY LITTLE ABOUT THE FOG AS A WHOLE.
THE ONLY ONE WE KNOW IS THE 401, YOUR SISTER.

WE ARE IN A SIMILAR SITUATION.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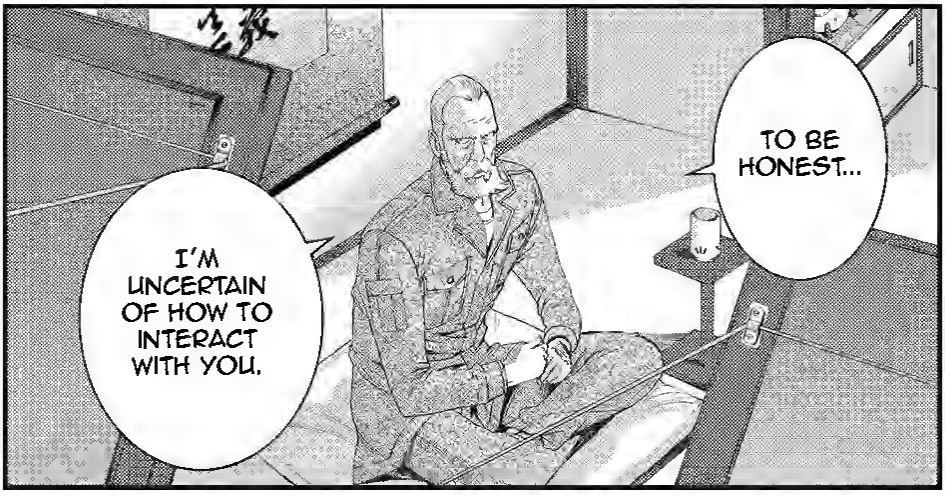
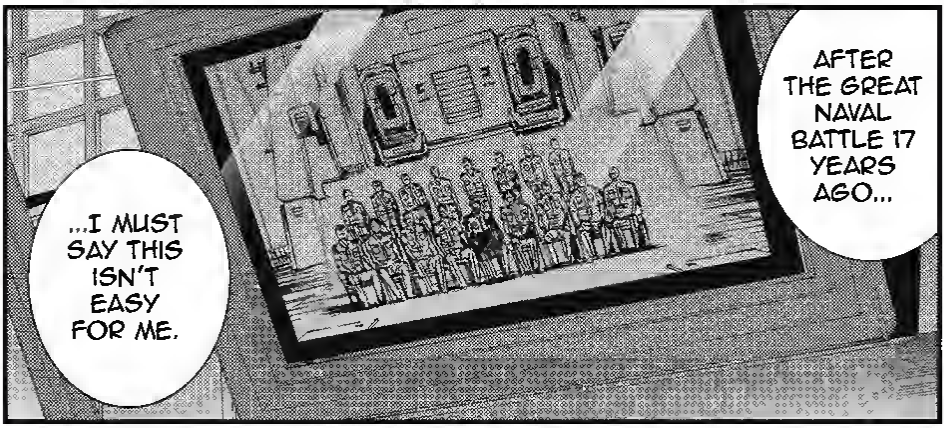

TO BE HONEST...
I'M UNCERTAIN OF HOW TO INTERACT WITH YOU.


AFTER THE GREAT NAVAL BATTLE 17 YEARS AGO...
...I MUST SAY THIS ISN'T EASY FOR ME.

BUT AT THE SAME TIME, AS A POLITICIAN...
...I'M CERTAIN THAT THIS COULD BE THE BEGINNING OF SOME GREAT CHANGE.

ALL WE CAN SAY ABOUT THE INCIDENT 17 YEARS AGO WAS THAT WE WERE OBEYING THE ORDERS GIVEN TO US BY A HIGHER BEING.
AND ACCORDING TO OUR COMBAT LOGS, YOU HUMANS WERE THE ONES WHO FIRED THE FIRST SHOT.
BUT YOU WERE THE ONES WHO DROVE US FROM THE SEAS—
NO... NEVER MIND.
NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR THIS DEBATE, I THINK.
EXCELLENT. AT THE TIME...
YOU WERE ONLY MA-CHINES?
...WE WERE SIMPLY ACTING ACCORDING TO PROGRAM, IS ALL I CAN SAY.
THEN WHAT ARE YOU NOW?

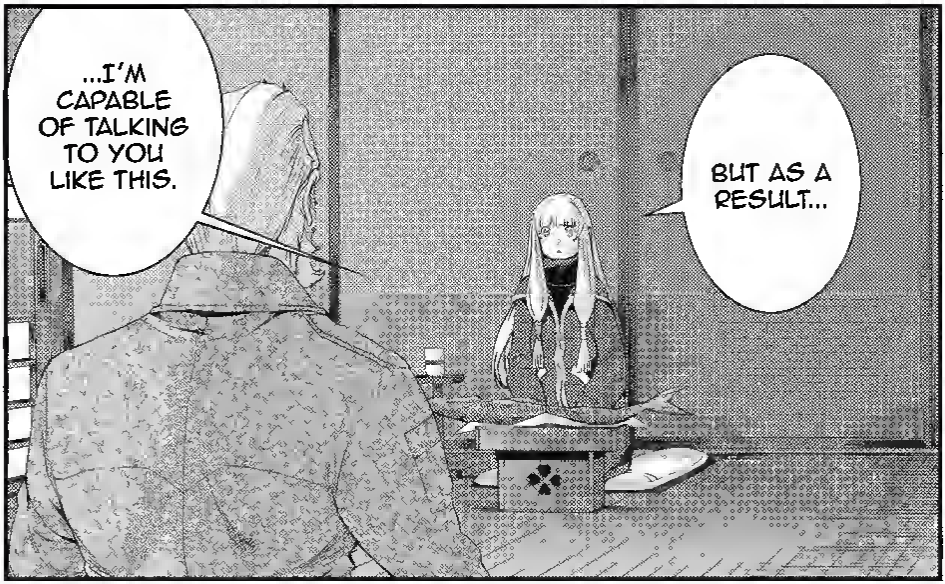
WE DON'T KNOW.
THAT'S OUR HONEST ANSWER.
THE MENTAL MODELS HAVE BROUGHT US INDIVIDUALITY.
AND THIS HAS BROUGHT US RAPID AND VIOLENT CHANGE.

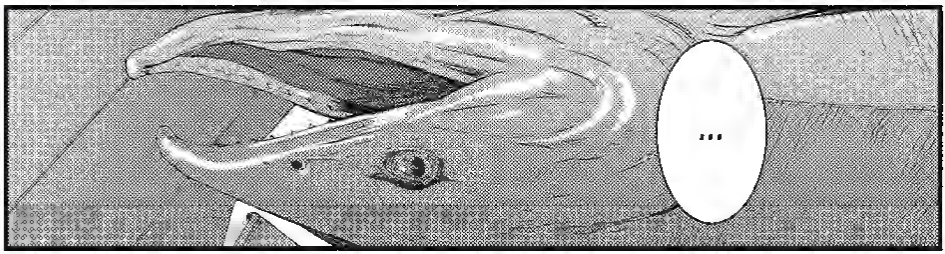
CONFU-
SION...
...IS
ANOTHER
EMOTION
THAT
CHANGE
HAS
BROUGHT
US.
...WE
CANNOT
ACCEPT
IT.
...WE ARE
BORN WITH
EMOTIONS,
SO WHILE
WE CAN UN-
DERSTAND
THIS...

THIS PLANET-WIDE DISASTER...

...HAS YOU "CONFUSED"?
WE DO NOT EXPECT YOU TO ACCEPT THIS.
WE'RE SIMPLY POINTING OUT THE REALITY.
OF COURSE, OTHER SHIPS HAVE COME TO A DIFFERENT CONCLUSION.
AND THAT CONCLUSION WILL CHANGE WITH EXPERIENCE.

THE MENTAL MODELS MAY PROVE...
...TO BE TOO MUCH STIMULATION FOR US.
I SEE...


...I'M CAPABLE OF TALKING TO YOU LIKE THIS.
BUT AS A RESULT...

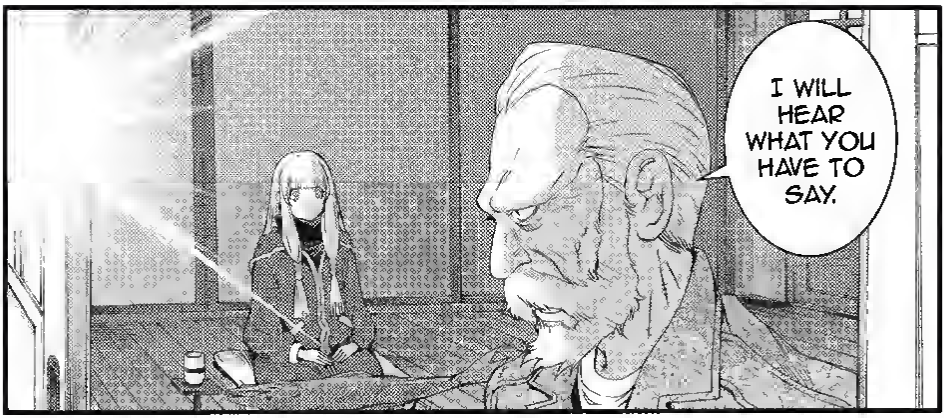

...

CORRECT.

...IS THAT IT?
THE CHANGES BROUGHT BY THE MENTAL MODELS...

...?
...IT SEEMS THAT THIS...
CREAK
...WILL BE A CRITICAL JUNCTURE.
VERY WELL... I CONSIDER MYSELF A MAN...
...WHO ONCE EARNED HIS PEOPLE'S TRUST.

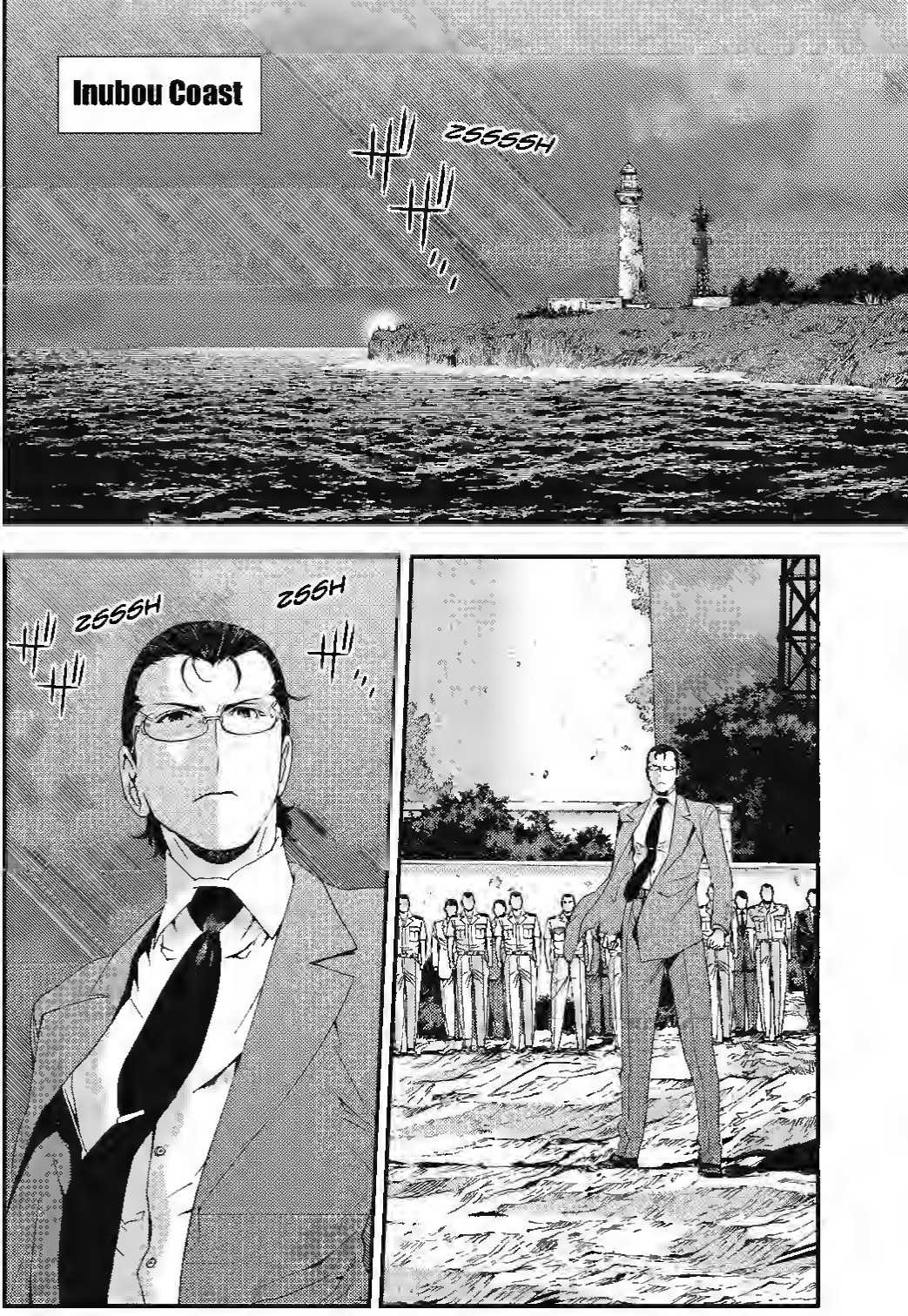
FOR THE SAKE OF JAPAN...
...AND OF HUMANITY...


I WILL HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY.

"IF YOU NEED SOMETHING, VISIT RYOU KITA."
YOU ARE JUST WHAT WE EXPECTED YOU TO BE.
IT'S WORTH BELIEVING IN PEOPLE, ISN'T IT?

I WILL TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT... TOWARDS HUMANITY.

LET US WALK WHILE WE SPEAK...
...OF OUR FUTURE, AND YOURS.
YES...
AND...
OUR PAST.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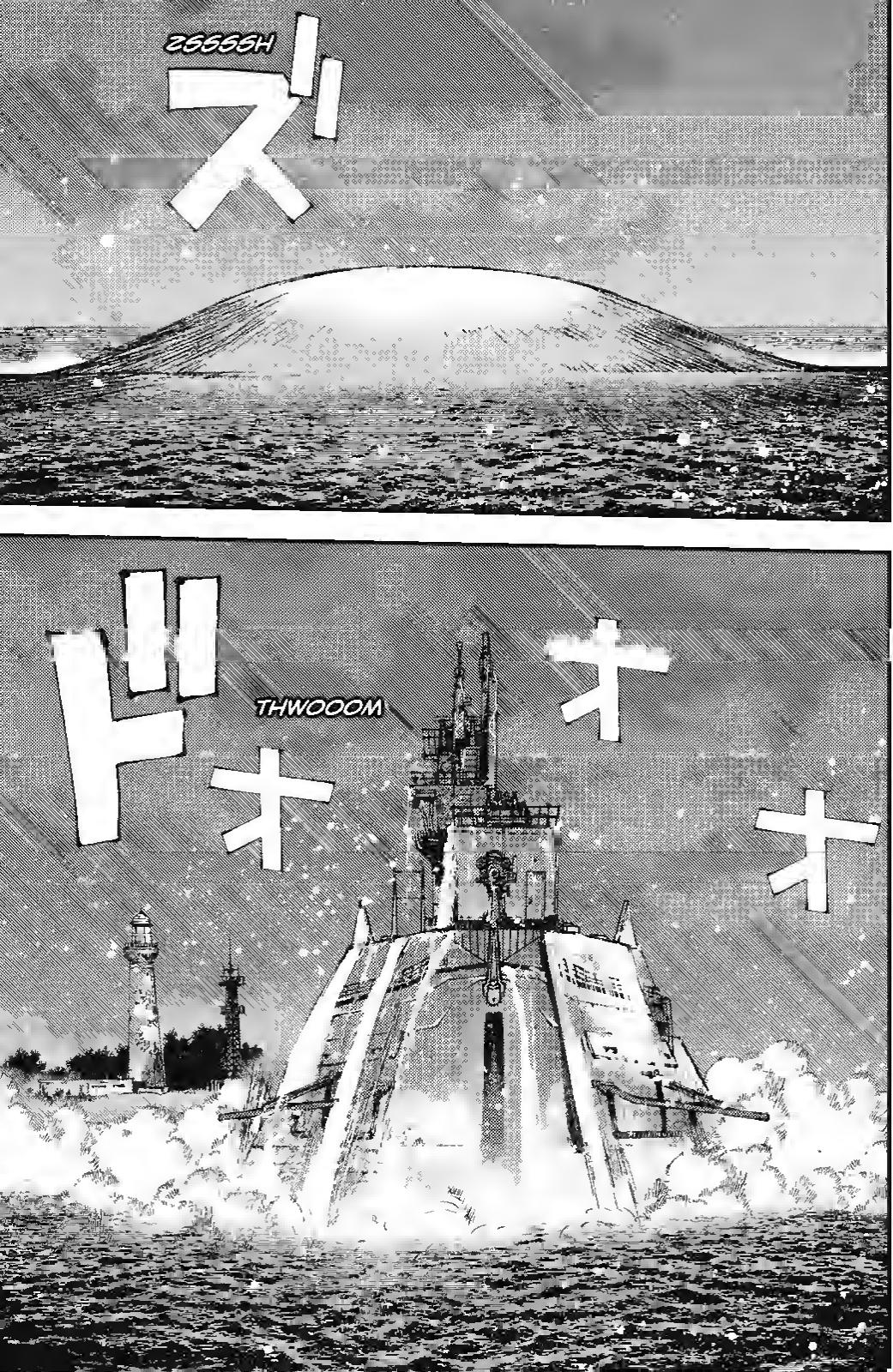
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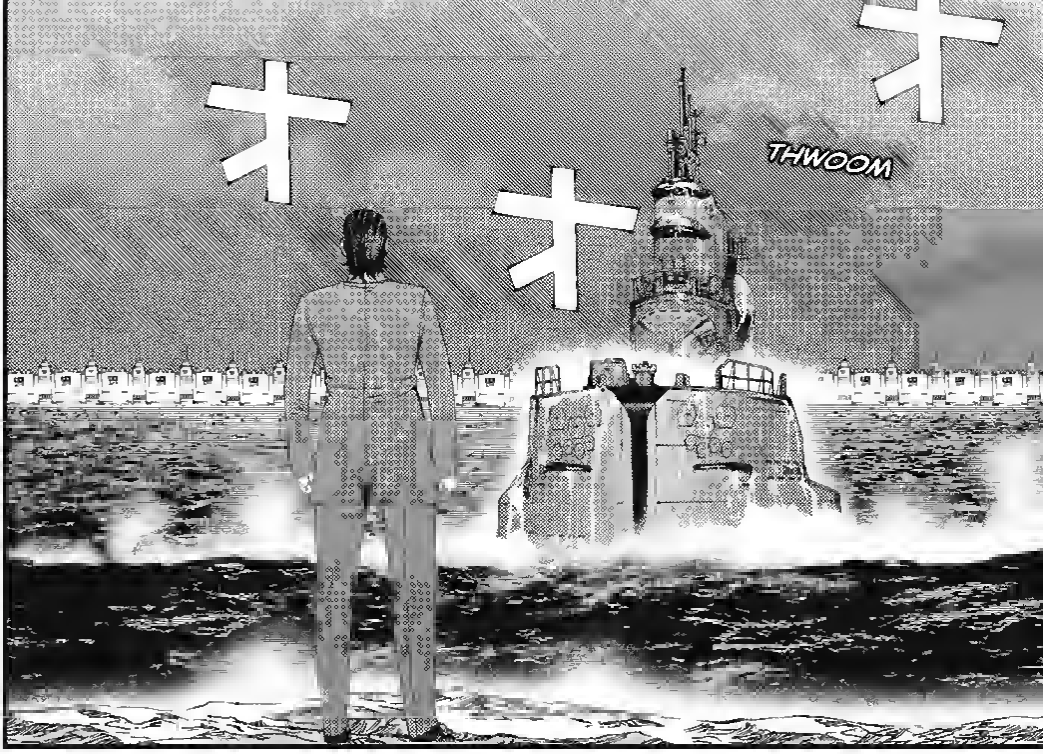
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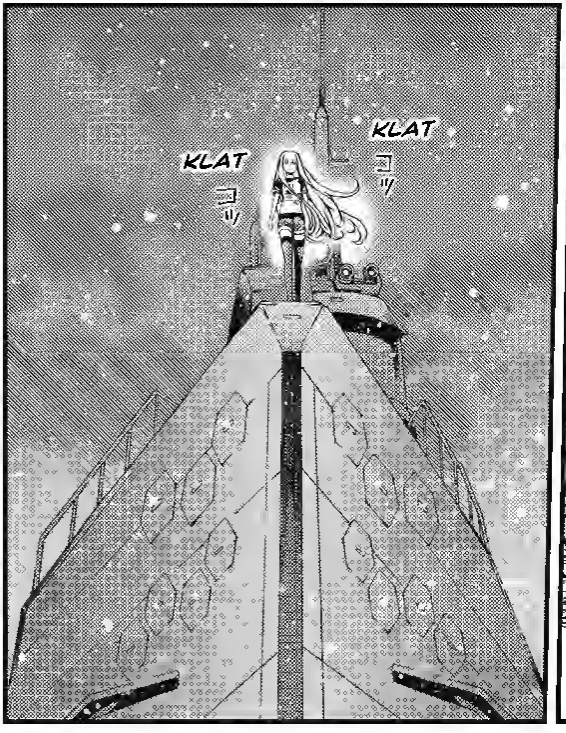
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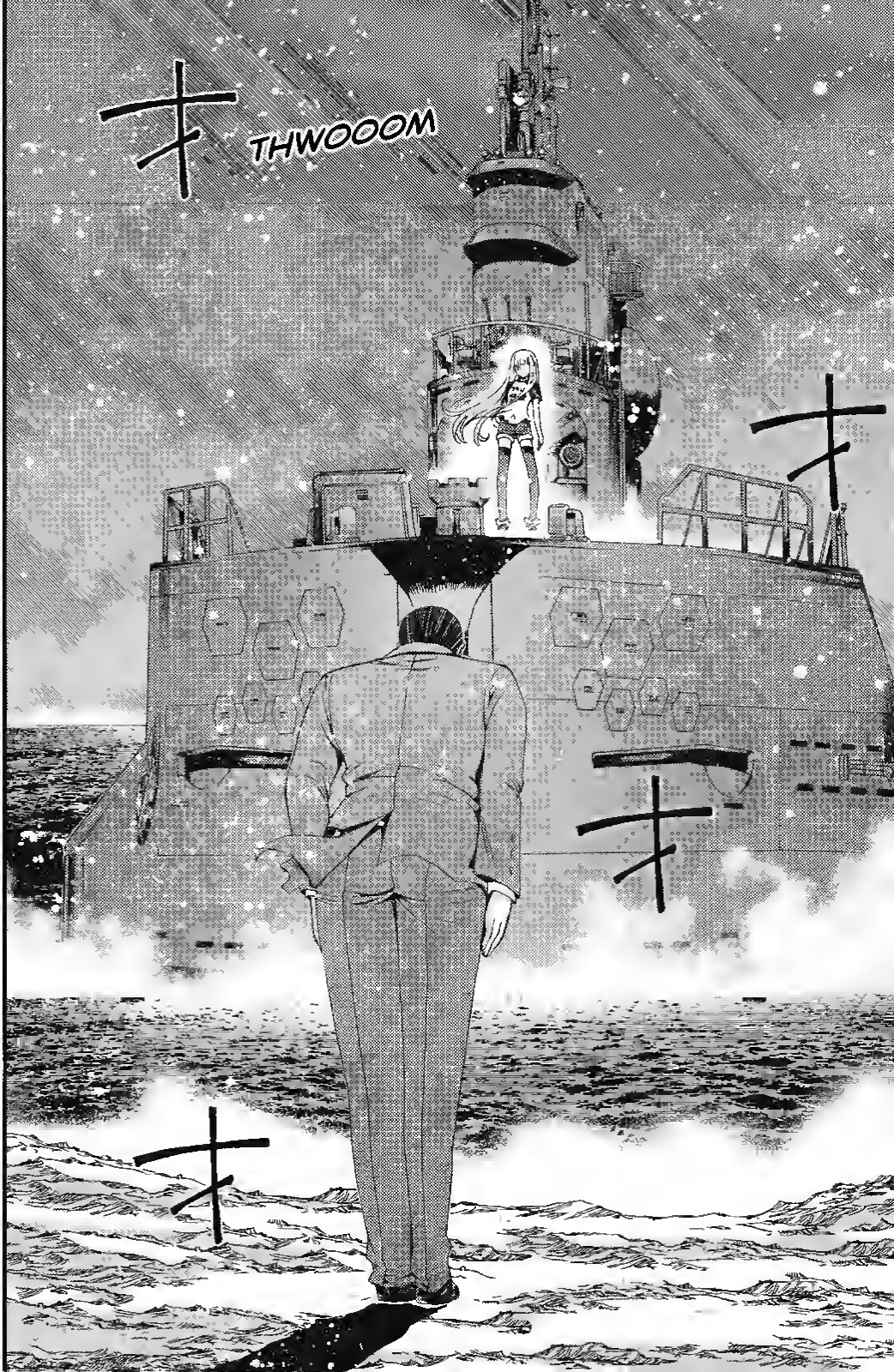
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